

March 18, 2002

**Akin to Join President Bush during Visit and on Air Force One**

St. Louis Mo.- Today, Congressman Todd Akin will accompany President Bush on his visit to Albers Manufacturing in O'Fallon. Akin will join the motorcade for a subsequent event and then fly back to Washington on Air Force One. The following is a statement issued today regarding the President's visit to O'Fallon:

"As a member of the House Small Business Committee I appreciate President Bush's strong support of small business. Small business is the backbone of our economy and employs over 50 percent of the private work force and represents over 90 percent of all employers.

"Small business epitomizes the entrepreneurial spirit that made America what it is. When we stifle small business with overly burdensome regulations and taxes, we stifle the American dream.

"The repeal of the death tax, across the board tax cuts and regulatory relief to encourage more small businesses to offer retirement plans are examples of what Congress has been able to accomplish under the President's leadership.

"I am glad to join in welcoming the President to O'Fallon to discuss small business in America."